

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Group: 3

Program: 1.2

Question: BE14/038

Senator McLucas asked the following question at the hearing on 26-29 May 2014:

Senator McLUCAS: Let us move to another issue with the NDRRA. Following Cyclone Yasi and the Brisbane floods, there were considerable conversations about the way that natural disaster relief and recovery arrangements were applied to local governments applying to reinstate infrastructure. You may recall the model that was put into trial called the Local Government Value for Money Pricing Model. Is that pricing model being applied to those local authorities affected by Cyclone Ita?

Ms C Jones: The arrangement you are referring to was a trial arrangement under the National Partnership Agreement established with Queensland for the reconstruction following the extraordinary flooding events in 2010-11 and followed by Tropical Cyclone Yasi. It has not been extended for the current season. It was established in recognition, I guess, of the scale of the impacts from those previous events and the consequent impacts on the labour market as a result of that. We have not seen the same scale of impacts from this disaster season to warrant an extension of the trial at this point.

Senator McLUCAS: Have representations been made to extend the trial?

Ms C Jones: Yes, they have.

Senator McLUCAS: And the decision has been made by this government to not extend the trial?

Ms C Jones: That is right. Ministers Keenan and Truss have jointly written to the Queensland government.

Senator McLUCAS: When was that?

Ms C Jones: I would have to take that on notice. I do not have the date of the letter.

Senator McLUCAS: I want to go back to the questions around NDRRA, if that is possible. Earlier I did ask a question about when Minister Keenan and Minister Truss wrote to Queensland—have you got the date of that letter yet?

Mr Crossweller: My understanding is that the letter from the minister has been prepared and it is due to be issued back to Queensland very shortly.

Ms C Jones: I am sorry, Senator, I do not have the date of the letter. I will have to take that on notice.

Senator McLUCAS: Okay, could you provide that to me on notice.

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

6 May 2014